

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**United States
Coast Guard**



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NMC Policy Letter 2-2000

May 8, 2000

From: Commanding Officer, USCG National Maritime Center
To: Distribution

Subj: united states deadlines for the international convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for seafarers (stcw)

1. The requirements found within STCW, Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 10, 12, and 15, and a number of National Maritime Center policy letters have set various dates for compliance with the convention. This policy letter contains information to assist the mariner in determining important deadline dates that exist within the STCW and STCW implementation policy documents.
2. Due to the number of references involved, and the possibility for confusion by all parties, this policy letter was developed to ensure the marine industry and/or the United States Coast Guard misses none of the key dates established. The attached table provides a quick reference, which provides the deadline date for various required endorsements within STCW as well as dates that effect interim STCW qualifications. The table also provides a brief description of the compliance criteria that must be met in order to receive the specific endorsement.
3. Questions regarding the deadline dates noted in this policy letter should be directed to Mr. Stewart Walker of the National Maritime Center at telephone number (202) 493-1022 or electronic mail address at swalker@ballston.uscg.mil.

M. S. BOOTHE

Encl: (1) U.S. Coast Guard STCW Deadlines

Dist: All District Commanders (m)
Commandant (G-MSO)
Commandant (G-MOC)
All COs MSOs
All Activity Commanders
All RECs

Deadline Date ¹	Service Start Date ²	STCW Endorsement	Compliance Criteria	Reference
Jan 31, 1997	Feb 1, 1997	Basic Safety Training ³ (BST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all required training and assessment required under 46 CFR Part 10 and 12. Maintain documentation of compliance with the standards of training and watchkeeping, to include training demonstrating that ongoing BST is being conducted. Relaxed assessment method will be allowed to demonstrate compliance with BST per the referenced policy letter. 	46 CFR ⁴ 15.1105 NMC ⁵ Policy Letter 12-98
Aug 1, 1998	Not Specified	Bridge Teamwork Procedures Course ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate compliance the mariner must show one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of approved in-service experience by a designated examiner; OR Completion of a course approved by the Coast Guard as meeting STCW-95 standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courses completed prior to Aug 1, 1998 must be listed in and meet the criteria in NMC Policy Letter 23-98. 	NMC Policy Letter 23-98
Aug 1, 1998	Any	BST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have formal training and/or assessment by a designated examiner approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, if original license and/or MMD⁷ issued after deadline date. 	NMC Policy Letter 12-98 NMC Policy Letter 5-99
Aug 1, 1998	Prior to Aug 1, 1998	Survival Craft and Rescue Boat training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If license or MMD is issued prior to Aug 1, 1998 an STCW certificate endorsement may be issued on STCW 95 form if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of BST provided at time of application. Compliance with 46 CFR 12.10 sufficient evidence of competency until Feb 1, 2002. 	46 CFR 12.10-3 NMC Policy Letter 15-98

¹ Important date when deadline occurs

² Mariners starting sea service or training after this date must meet compliance criteria

³ Basic Safety Training is required for all mariners regardless of service start date as of Aug 1, 1998

⁴ CFR - Code of Federal Regulation

⁵ NMC - National Maritime Center

⁶ Bridge teamwork - one aspect of bridge resource management

⁷ MMD - Merchant Mariner Document

Deadline Date	Service Start Date	STCW Endorsement	Compliance Criteria	Reference
Aug 1, 1998	On or after Aug 1, 1998	Survival Craft and Lifeboat training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the deadline date a mariner must receive approved training & demonstrate competency. The following conditions must apply when obtaining this endorsement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have completed training and demonstrated competency within 5 years prior to license or MMD issuance. This applies only to lifeboatman operating beyond the boundary line. Designated Examiner must conduct assessment of competency. 	46 CFR 12.10-3 NMC Policy Letter 15-98
Aug 1, 1998	Prior to Aug 1, 1998	Engine Department (Both licensed and unlicensed personnel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All engineering department personnel qualify for a STCW 78 form. All engineering department personnel qualify for a STCW 95 form before or after Aug 1, 1998 if they comply with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presents proof of competency in BST, and for engineering officers, they present qualification for use of survival craft. 	NMC Policy Letter 24-98
Aug 1, 1998	Not Specified	PIC ⁸ Medical Care Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Coast Guard will accept courses which met STCW standards as taught prior to Aug 1, 1998 under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline must be submitted by training provider for NMC Approval. Course must have been completed prior to Aug 1, 1998. Course must have been completed within 5 years of the date of application. 	NMC Policy Letter 21-98
Jan 1, 1999	Not Specified	Passenger Ships other than RO/RO ⁹ Passenger Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masters, officers, ratings and other personnel on passenger ships must comply with STCW Regulation V/3. 	NVIC ¹⁰ 4-99
Jan 31, 1999	Not Specified	GMDSS ¹¹ Maintainer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each vessel relying on at-sea maintenance for GMDSS must have trained person who meets the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must hold FCC¹² GMDSS Radio Maintainer's License. Must hold MMD. Must hold appropriate STCW certificate endorsements. 	NMC Policy Letter 2-99

⁸ PIC - Person in Charge

⁹ RO/RO - Roll-on Roll-off

¹⁰ NVIC - Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular

Deadline Date	Service Start Date	STCW Endorsement	Compliance Criteria	Reference
Feb 1, 1999	Received FCC GMDSS License prior to Aug 1, 1998	GMDSS Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two persons issued FCC GMDSS License on each vessel required to have GMDSS equipment must meet one of the following criteria (No STCW endorsement required until February 1, 2002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show one year service as a radio officer while holding CG license; and, Pass GMDSS written exam administered by designated examiner, OR, Have completed a 35 hour GMDSS course prior to Aug 1, 1998; Pass GMDSS written exam administered by designated examiner; and, Present evidence of assessment by a designated examiner for competencies of Table B-IV/2 of the STCW Code, OR, Be employed as a GMDSS instructor with at least 140 contact hours within 5 years prior to making application; and, Pass GMDSS written exam administered by designated examiner. 	NMC Policy Letter 2-99
Feb 1, 1999	Received FCC GMDSS License on or after Aug 1, 1998	GMDSS Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On each vessel required to have GMDSS equipment, at least two persons with a FCC GMDSS License must meet the following (No STCW endorsement required until February 1, 2002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass U.S. Coast Guard approved training course. 	NMC Policy Letter 2-99
Dec 31, 1999	Feb 1, 1997	BST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of relaxed assessment for BST ends this date. The following are the criterion that is no longer accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter signed by licensed officer (>200 GRT & 90 service). Assessor uses MERPAC¹³. Developed performance measures. Assessor licensed with 90 days sea service in past year. 	Federal Register Dated Jun 26, 1997 and NMC Policy Letter 5-99

¹¹ GMDSS - Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

¹² FCC - Federal Communication Commission

¹³ MERPAC - Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

Deadline Date	Service Start Date	STCW Endorsement	Compliance Criteria	Reference
Jul 1, 2000	After Jul 31, 1998	Rating forming part of a Navigation Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mariner requesting this endorsement must; 1) attend a U.S. Coast Guard approved course; OR, 2) hold the credentials as, able seaman-unlimited, -limited, or –special; AND meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary evidence of seagoing service. 6 months training & experience associated with navigation watchkeeping functions. Documented assessment on the competencies of A-II/4. Sea service & assessment completed not later than Dec 31, 1999. Application for endorsement dated not later than deadline date. 	NMC Policy Letter 3-99
Jan 1, 2001	Before Feb 1, 1997	BST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If mariner provides certificate of discharge for period between Feb 1, 1992 & Jan 31, 1997 need only meet the requirements found in 46 CFR 15.1105(d) which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of having participated in well-organized drills and other structured exercises, or on board training, and, Performance during training was evaluated and weaknesses identified for the mariner. 	NMC Policy Letter 5-99
Feb 1, 2002	Not Specified	Deck Watch GMDSS Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any personnel assigned with duties in the operation of the GMDSS must hold STCW Certificate endorsed for GMDSS 	NMC Policy Letter 2-99
Feb 1, 2002	All	BST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of transitional provisions ends. Any mariner who used any transitional provisions for demonstrating competency in BST must demonstrate completion of a formal U.S. Coast Guard approved training course that covers the four elements of BST. 	NMC Policy Letter 5-99
Feb 1, 2002	Before Aug 1, 1998	Survival Craft/ Lifeboatman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptance of transitional provisions ends. 	NMC Policy Letter 6-99
Feb 1, 2002	Before Aug 1, 1998	Rating forming part of the Navigation Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mariner's receiving this endorsement before Feb 1, 2002 need only meet the current requirements for certification as an able seaman as found in 46 CFR 12.05-9. 	NMC Policy Letter 3-99
Feb 1, 2002	After Aug 1, 1998	Engine Department (Both licensed and unlicensed personnel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All personnel required to meet all STCW requirements for competencies and training. This includes all upgrades of licenses service &/or training for upgrade began after Aug 1, 1998. 	NMC Policy Letter 24-98